

STARS AND STRIPES

Sunday, March 9, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Will U.S. war resolve hold amid casualties?

BY SHARON COHEN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The gruesome sight of an American soldier's body being dragged through the streets of Somalia's capital by a mob horrified the nation. Within days, a date was announced for withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The terrorist bomb that ripped through a U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon and left more than 240 dead sent shock waves across the country. Within months, America's peacekeeping mission there was over.

Now as the nation braces for possible war with Iraq, questions arise: Will public support waver if casualties are high or fighting drags on?

Some experts say Americans have become more determined since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and will stand firm behind military action against Iraq just as they have in the campaign to root out al-Qaida terrorists throughout the world.

"I have no doubt that after September 11, all Americans have the resolve to see this through," says John Allen Williams, professor of political science at Loyola University in Chicago.

Not everyone agrees.

Charles Moskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University, sees no new mood of sacrifice in the post-Sept. 11 climate.

"Putting a flag on your SUV is not a sacrifice," he says. "It's patriotism lite."

Moskos also dismisses pub-

lic opinion surveys registering healthy support for the war before it starts. "Those polls mean nothing until people die," he says.

He notes that fewer than 550 American military personnel were killed altogether in missions in Lebanon (1983) and Somalia (1993), the invasions of Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989), the first Persian Gulf War (1991) and the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan.

"Being a taxi driver is more dangerous than being a member of the military since Vietnam," Moskos says.

One survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press in mid-February showed 66 percent approval of military action against Iraq.

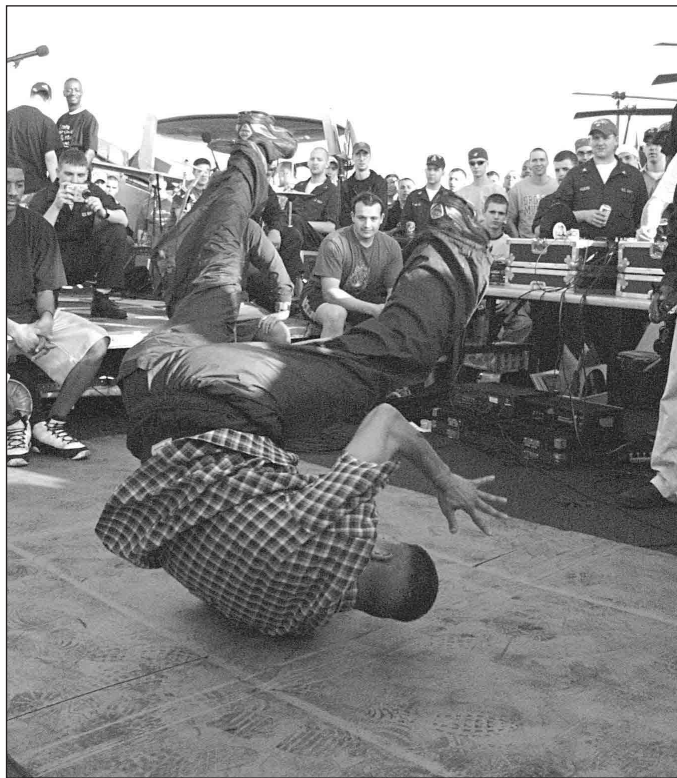
The results suggest the public is willing to hang tough "and pay the costs of a military engagement because of its feeling of vulnerability coupled with its fear and dislike of Saddam," says Andrew Kohut, the Pew Center's director.

But the poll also found 57 percent of those surveyed want a second U.N. resolution backing an attack.

If U.S. troops invade Iraq without international support and the war doesn't go well, Kohut says, public support could erode. "Some people might say the world wasn't with us and this is why," he says.

The Pew poll also found 55 percent of those questioned worry a great deal about high numbers of U.S. casualties.

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KENDRA HELMER/Stars and Stripes

Airman Daniel Cortes break-dances Saturday on the USS Kitty Hawk during a steel-beach picnic in the Persian Gulf.

Kitty Hawk steel-beach picnic swings with music and beer

BY KENDRA HELMER
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS KITTY HAWK — Instead of aircraft launching off the flight deck Saturday, sailors on the USS Kitty Hawk drove golf balls into the Persian Gulf.

Others break-danced or played hacky sack as a DJ spun tunes. One group pumped iron in a bench-press competition.

Rather than lining up in uniforms for chow, sailors in civies piled plates with barbecued food.

And, precious blue tickets in hand, they shifted impatiently near an F-14 engine canister. Its contents: ice cold

beer, two for each of the nearly 5,500 troops.

Following Navy tradition, the Kitty Hawk crew was treated to a steel-beach picnic to mark 45 days under way.

"For one day out of the whole time we've been under way, it feels like home," said Petty Officer 3rd Class John Gutierrez. "What a vibe. I didn't expect this."

Many sailors, including Gutierrez, hadn't been to a steel-beach picnic; the last one on this aircraft carrier, was November 2001 during Operation Enduring Freedom. Most deployments have a port visit before the 45-day mark.

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Party

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Since leaving Yokosuka, Japan, on Jan. 20, these troops have seen only blue water. But it was a vivid scene Saturday.

One of the more colorful characters was Petty Officer 3rd Class Chad Shelton, sporting a Dr. Seuss-like red, blue and yellow hat. He modified it by attaching cupholders — one for each beer.

"We prepare for these things," said Shelton, 22, plunking down his skateboard.

Several were content to chill out, sunning themselves in fold-up chairs during a rare break from work.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Ana-laura Mendoza, smiling broadly, danced close to Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Silva, as others sang along in Spanish to a merengue song.

Three bands took the stage throughout the day, singing punk and rock tunes. The final band, Blood Clot, got quite a reaction with its death metal/hardcore act.

"This is war-motivation music," said one sailor as he started slam dancing with about 10 others.

It didn't last long; security told singer Seaman Charles Curtis he'd be cut off if the slam dancing continued. His eyes bulging, Curtis, 20, shouted into the microphone a few more minutes before announcing, "We're getting kicked off," drawing boos.

Sailors said they really needed to vent some steam.

"Things have been intense," said the ship's Command Master Chief Marvin Dublin. "We needed a break, a day to relax."

Not everyone ended the day with a sunburn. Some aircraft crews had to remain on alert. Four pilots and four crewmen with the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 14 squadron popped up on deck to grab food but volunteered to stay sober.

"I gave it up for Lent, anyway," said Cmdr. Mark Dear-durff.

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News tracker: What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Forward-operating base set up: Several hundred U.S. soldiers, deep in southeastern Turkey, unloaded trucks and jeeps Sunday at a newly set up forward-operating base, only 100 miles from the Iraqi border.

The compound will serve as a logistics base for 62,000 U.S. troops, if Turkey allows the United States to open a northern front against Iraq from its territory.

Dozens of jeeps, ambulances, trucks and fuel-haulers were lined behind the walled compound, surrounded by barbed wires. Turkish and a few U.S. soldiers stood guard outside the perimeter of the base set up last week on the outskirts of this southeastern town.

The operation is run by some 3,500 U.S. troops, authorized by Turkey two months ago under a separate deal to start preparations at ports and air bases for the arrival of combat troops.

The compound, once a grain refinery and warehouse complex, is just a mile away from a small civilian airport and hundreds of yards away from the main road running to the Iraqi border. U.S. military logisticians also have been looking to rent land closer to Iraq, locals said.

Port security: A new rule imposed by the U.S. Customs Service as an anti-terrorism measure is forcing importers to collect and report more detailed information on shipments destined for U.S. ports.

For importers like Lillian Vernon Corp., which ships most of its products through Hampton Roads, Va., the new requirement means tracking a variety of items from numerous countries.

Purses, champagne flutes and wooden Easter eggs for Lillian Vernon stores and catalogs begin their journey in the Far East.

Manufacturers pack the items into trucks that travel across Thailand, China or Taiwan to a consolidator. The consolidator puts the goods in shipping containers and seals them with wire.

Twenty-four hours before a container leaves an overseas port, Lillian Vernon and other shippers must now provide detailed information to the U.S. Customs Service. Customs got tough with the 24-hour rule beginning Feb. 2.

Money laundering law: The Philippines tightened its law against money laundering Friday, a move the United States called an important tool in the war against terror.

The Paris-based Financial Task Force on money laundering had given the Philippines until March 15 to change its existing law or face sanctions.

Gitmo suicide attempt: A terrorism suspect made a repeat effort to commit suicide while in U.S. detention at Guantanamo Bay, bringing the total number of attempts to 21, a military spokesman said Saturday.

Eleven attempts have occurred since the year's start, including one in January that left a man with serious brain damage, while 10 other attempts happened over the course of last year.

The detainee who attempted suicide Friday was treated at the base hospital and was under medical observation, spokesman Lt. Col. Barry Johnson said by telephone from the base.

Saudi airport closed: The Saudi government has shut down civilian flights to an airport near the Iraqi border so that it can be used by American forces in a possible war against Iraq, sources in Saudi Arabia said Friday.

Hundreds of American troops have deployed at the airport, according to a source who is well-positioned to observe the activity outside the town of Araar, 40 miles south of the Iraqi border. The source, who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone, said Araar Airport will be closed to civilian traffic for four months.

World

Germans protest shopping hours: About 20,000 people demonstrated in Berlin on Sunday against a move by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government to loosen strict regulations on shop opening hours, police said.

The protest was held in the capital's main shopping area and organized by the Verdi service workers' union, which is leading resistance to the proposal that would allow shops to open for an extra four hours on Saturdays.

The proposal, which still requires approval by parliament, would allow stores to open their doors between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, but Sunday opening would remain taboo. At present, shops must close at 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

With the economy mired in near-zero growth and Schroeder's administration raising taxes to tame the country's budget deficit, the plan has been welcomed by trade organizations.

But Germany's powerful unions, traditionally key allies of Schroeder's Social Democrats, have long opposed change, arguing that most people have plenty of time to shop and that longer hours will keep clerks away from their families.

Pakistani's body recovered: Rescuers recovered a body off the Pakistani coast Sunday and believe it may be that of an Afghan official who was killed with seven other people in a plane crash near Karachi last month, officials said.

Eight people were killed, including Afghan Minister for Mines and Industry Juma Mohammed Mohammedi, when their chartered Cessna 402 crashed shortly after takeoff from Karachi on Feb. 24. Police believe the body found Sunday was that of Rahmatullah Popal, an adviser to Mohammedi.

Rescuers from the Edhi Welfare Trust recovered the body after locals reported seeing it floating in the sea near the crash site at Gadani, about 25 miles west of Karachi, Gadani police official Munir Baluch said. The trust owned the plane.

Five bodies were recovered previously, but those of Mohammedi, Popal and an executive of the Chinese company that operated the mines remained missing.

Not his brother's keeper: The family of Radovan Karadzic denied that the top Bosnian Serb war crimes fugitive was hiding in Serbia or Montenegro.

"I guarantee Radovan Karadzic would never come to Montenegro or Serbia," Luka Karadzic, the brother of the No. 1 war crimes suspect, told daily Dnevnik.

"He simply would not want to be a nuisance to his people, and he would not want to inconvenience authorities because of his presence," he was quoted as saying in the paper's Sunday editions.

Karadzic has evaded arrest for the last seven years and is believed hiding in the Bosnian Serb controlled part of Bosnia, Republika Srpska.

His brother's comments joined a chorus of similar denials by officials that followed claims this week by chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, who said she knew Karadzic's whereabouts.

Karadzic, a close ally of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, was indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, for genocide and other war crimes during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia that claimed about 200,000 lives.

Unintended help? While the Bush administration confronts North Korea over development of nuclear weapons, it is allowing the regime access to thousands of documents on nuclear technology as part of an electric power project, the Energy Department acknowledged.

In a letter to Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., Energy Secretary Spencer

Abraham said the administration was considering suspending the technology transfers, which began in 1996 as part of a program to help North Korea build two light water nuclear reactors to generate electricity.

Warrant reissued for Fujimori: Interpol has reissued an international arrest warrant for former President Alberto Fujimori after receiving additional information from Peru, Peruvian officials said Saturday.

Interpol suspended the warrant on Feb. 27 and gave Peruvian officials 14 days to provide evidence tying Fujimori to a paramilitary death squad and to demonstrate that the charges were not politically motivated.

Israel launches helo attack: The militant Islamic group Hamas vowed revenge Saturday after one of its founding members and three bodyguards were killed in an Israeli helicopter attack. The Israeli army promised to strike the militants again.

Hamas threatened to attack Israeli political leaders and said no Israeli should feel safe after helicopter gunships swooped in and fired missiles at a car carrying Hamas strongman Ibrahim Makadmeh, 51, Saturday.

States

Another Iditarod change: Halfway into the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, poor trail conditions have forced yet another route change, officials said Saturday.

Race officials decided to drop the last leg of the route between Anvik and Shageluk late Friday night after trail breaking crews encountered impassable conditions, Iditarod executive director Stan Hooley said Saturday.

"Most of the stretch between Anvik and Shageluk is very icy with no snow cover," Hooley said. "There's really no way to navigate it."

Race Marshal Mark Nordman said organizers immediately notified leading mushers, including Jeff King, Norwegian Robert Sorlie, Ramy Brooks and defending champion Martin Buser. By Saturday morning, the remaining field of 56 mushers had been notified.

Meanwhile, King, a three-time Iditarod winner, and early front-runner Sorlie were vying for command of the lead.

Young plane crash survivors: A toddler who survived 18 hours on a snowy Massachusetts mountain after his family's plane crashed was discharged from the hospital, a day before people gathered to mourn the loss of his parents and two brothers.

Ryan Ferris, 2, was discharged Friday night from Albany Medical Center, while his brothers, Jordan, 5, and Tyler, 10, were upgraded from serious to fair condition, hospital spokesman Greg McGarry said Saturday.

On Saturday night, friends and relatives gathered at Strong and Burns Funeral Home in Rome — 35 miles east of Syracuse — to say goodbye to the boys' parents, Ronald and Tayne Ferris and two brothers Shawn, 11, and Kyle, 8.

"It's unbelievable the outpour of good wishes, prayers and support," Leon Smith, the uncle of Tayne Ferris, told The Observer Dispatch of Utica.

Moose won't delay book: Montgomery County, Md., Police Chief Charles Moose said Saturday he will not delay the release of his upcoming book about the sniper shootings, despite prosecutors' and defense lawyers' concerns about tainting the jury pool in the pending trials of Lee Boyd Malvo and John Allen Muhammad.

Moose, whose constant presence during the three-week sniper spree made him a national celebrity, has signed a deal with Dutton Books, a division of Penguin Putnam, to write a book tentatively titled "Three Weeks in October: The Search for the D.C. Sniper."

From staff and wire reports

Resolve: If casualties mount, we may pull out of Iraq

Continued from Page 1

Some politicians cite the U.S. government's war on terrorism as proof of American resolve.

In a recent appearance on Fox News Sunday, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., pointed to the recent arrest in Pakistan of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"What we did was to deliver a strong message, 'Yes, we will be here. Yes, we have the resolve,'" said Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Chuck Pena, director of defense policy studies at the Cato Institute in Washington, also says the success against the Taliban should quash any concerns about U.S. commitment.

"After Afghanistan ... it ought to be clear we're pretty serious," he says.

In a war with Iraq, some experts say even if Saddam's army collapses and his forces succumb, the American public will could face a serious test in the aftermath of victory.

A terrorist strike on U.S. troops remaining in Iraq as peacekeepers could quickly turn public opinion, says Larry Korb, director of national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonpartisan think tank.

"If Americans wake up and find out that 15 [U.S.] soldiers are killed in an attack on their barracks," he says, "people will say, 'How long is this going to go on? Why are we doing it? Why don't we have any allies?'"

Still, Korb sees basic differences between a U.S. invasion of Iraq and two engagements in which casualties led to swift troop withdrawals: Beirut, Lebanon, and Somalia.

"Both were seen as not having direct U.S. interests," Korb says. "We went into both places somewhat reluctantly. We didn't have the big buildup."

Those incidents shouldn't lead U.S. allies or enemies to

conclude that America is a paper tiger, says Williams, the political science professor.

"That's a huge misreading of the American psyche," Williams says. "Americans will sustain casualties, but they've got to understand why."

But, he says, what may have emboldened U.S. enemies in recent years, was the U.S. response to terrorist acts such as the first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 and the attack on the USS Cole in 2000.

"We thought in terms of law enforcement," he says. "We should have been thinking in terms of war."

Retaliatory missile strikes on Afghanistan and Sudan after the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were "not sufficiently robust to have the desired effect," Williams adds. "You hit a few empty tents in Afghanistan. So what?"

The U.S. response to this string of attacks led Osama bin Laden to conclude that "if there were a few more terrorists acts, we would leave the Middle East," says Walter Russell Mead, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mead also says there may even be some vestiges of doubt among allies and adversaries when they see protests and remember similar activities from the Vietnam era.

"Some governments may overestimate the influence of the peace movement," he says. "What they may forget is how long it took for the peace movement [during Vietnam] to be influential."

And Stephen Hess, a presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution, says that in most international conflicts, the nation's divisions seem to fade when the fighting begins.

"Patriotism in wartime is really part of the American character," he says. "I tend to think we probably have more resolve ... than most other nations that come to mind. But on the other hand, it's not unlimited. It would be crazy if it were."

Al-Qaida may be planning attacks on troops in Iraq

BY JOHN L. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Al-Qaida operatives are planning to strike at U.S. and allied forces taking part in a war in Iraq, according to information acquired by U.S. intelligence agencies, counterterrorism officials said Saturday.

The operatives are subordinates of Abu Musab Zarqawi, whom CIA officials describe as a senior associate of Osama bin Laden. Some are in Baghdad; others are elsewhere in Iraq, the counterterrorism officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The intelligence does not suggest any kind of coordination between the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the al-Qaida operatives; instead, officials believe the terrorists are looking to capitalize on the chaos created by any military conflict to strike at American and allied troops.

A CIA report, passed to senior government officials last week, warned of the potential strikes. A CIA spokesman declined to comment.

The New York Times first reported the information Saturday on its Web site.

The counterterrorism officials said operatives may be planning to use explosives or toxins to conduct the attack.

The new information comes against a murky backdrop regarding whether Iraq supports al-Qaida, or to what extent there are ties.

However, intelligence officials have generally agreed they have nothing to document that Saddam Hussein had a hand in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or that Saddam and Osama bin Laden are coordinating terrorist operations.

At the center of U.S. allegations that there are links between Iraq and the terrorist group is Zarqawi, a Jordanian terrorist operative, and some of his followers.

CIA Director George Tenet and others have described Zarqawi as a senior associate of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, but officials acknowledge some difference of opinion within U.S. intelligence whether it is correct to describe him as a member of the organization.

Zarqawi has been linked to the failed millennium bombing of a tourist hotel in Jordan and the killing of an American diplomat in Amman in October.

According to U.S. officials, Zarqawi was in Baghdad last summer, presumably with the knowledge of Iraqi officials. Some of his people are still there. Zarqawi is also linked to an Islamic extremist group in northern Iraq, Ansar al-Islam, that operates in a region outside of Saddam's control.

An agent from Iraq's government is working for Ansar, Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a Feb. 5 presentation to the U.N. Security Council. Powell said this agent had offered safe haven to some al-Qaida operatives in the region.

But Powell omitted an important point: U.S. officials later acknowledged they don't know what this Iraqi operative is doing with Ansar al-Islam, and they do not know whether Ansar is aware he works for the Iraqi government.

While the agent could be openly representing Saddam's government, he also could be spying on the group for Saddam's security services, officials said.

Experts: Iraq link to weapons forged

BY JOBY WARRICK

The Washington Post

A key piece of evidence linking Iraq to a nuclear weapons program appears to have been fabricated, the United Nations' chief nuclear inspector said Friday in a report that called into question U.S. and British claims about Iraq's secret nuclear ambitions.

Documents that purportedly showed Iraqi officials shopping for uranium in Africa two years ago were deemed "not authentic" after careful scrutiny by U.N. and independent experts, Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the U.N. Security Council.

ElBaradei also rejected a key Bush administration claim — made twice by the president in major speeches and repeated by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on Friday — that Iraq had tried to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes to use in centrifuges for uranium enrichment. Also, ElBaradei reported finding no evidence of banned weapons or nuclear material in an extensive sweep of Iraq using advanced radiation detectors.

"There is no indication of resumed nuclear activities," ElBaradei said.

Knowledgeable sources familiar with the forgery investigation described the faked evidence as a series of letters between Iraqi agents and officials in the central African nation of Niger. The documents had been given to the U.N. inspectors by Britain and reviewed extensively by U.S. intelligence. The forgers had made relatively crude errors that eventually gave them away — including names and titles that did not match up with the individuals who held office at the time the letters were purportedly written, the officials said.

"We fell for it," said one U.S. official who reviewed the documents.

A spokesman for the IAEA said the agency did not blame

U.S. no-fly patrols hitting air defenses hard

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The commander of U.S. air forces in the Persian Gulf said Saturday that several months of intensified U.S. airstrikes had hit all fixed air defenses in southern Iraq known to American officials. But he added that mobile anti-aircraft guns and missiles remained a threat to U.S. pilots.

"We've killed what we know is there," Air Force Lt. Gen. T. Michael Moseley said. "But they have a lot of depth in mobile systems that they can continue to roll into the south. The mobile systems are the ones I worry about the most."

The arrival of hundreds of additional Air Force and Navy carrier-based aircraft in the region in the past two months has enabled the United States to more than dou-

ble the number of sorties over southern Iraq. This in turn has led to wider and more frequent coverage of the southern no-fly zone, Moseley said.

More than 400 U.S. planes are now operating from about 30 locations in the Gulf and elsewhere, according to other officials. In the past month, U.S. pilots have struck from seven to 14 targets in Iraq a week.

But Moseley said patrols are still not being flown 24 hours a day, and Iraqi forces continue to shoot at U.S. aircraft. Since passage of U.N. Security Council resolution 1441 in early November, which gave Iraq one more chance to disarm, Iraqi forces have fired more than 200 anti-aircraft artillery shells and more than 100 missiles at U.S. and British warplanes patrolling the southern zone, Moseley said.

"They're moving stuff around, they're enhancing the no-fly zone and they're a continual threat to my pilots and crews," the general said. "Sometimes they shoot at us 10 or 11 or 12 times during an operation."

The increasingly aggressive U.S. targeting in the southern and northern no-fly zones established a decade ago has been widely seen as reflecting an American plan for the systematic destruction of Iraqi air defenses and, more recently, surface-to-surface missiles in a fashion that will ease the way for an invasion. The surge in sorties, which now number in the hundreds daily — and reached a record 1,000 one day last week — has transformed what was once a limited patrolling operation into a broader, more intense prelude to possible full-scale war.

either Britain or the United States for the forgery. The documents "were shared with us in good faith," he said.

The discovery was a further setback to U.S. and British efforts to convince reluctant U.N. Security Council members of the urgency of the threat posed by Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Powell, in his statement to the Security Council Friday, acknowledged ElBaradei's findings but also cited "new information" suggesting that Iraq continues to try to get nuclear weapons components.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein pursued an ambitious nuclear agenda throughout the 1970s and 1980s and launched a crash program to build a bomb in 1990 after his invasion of neighboring Kuwait. But Iraq's nuclear infrastructure was heavily damaged by allied bombing in 1991, and the country's known stocks of nuclear fuel and equipment were removed

or destroyed during the United Nations inspections following the war.

However, Iraq never surrendered the blueprints for nuclear weapons, and kept key teams of nuclear scientists intact after U.N. inspectors were forced to leave in 1998. Despite international sanctions intended to block Iraq from obtaining weapons components, Western intelligence agencies and former weapons inspectors were convinced the Iraqi president had resumed his quest for the bomb in the late 1990s, citing defectors' stories and satellite images that showed new construction on facilities that were once part of Iraq's nuclear machinery.

Last September, the U.S. and British governments issued reports accusing Iraq of renewing its quest for nuclear weapons.

Doubts about both claims began to emerge shortly after U.N. inspectors returned to Iraq last November.

Iraq: U.S. is fascist

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq called the United States fascist and anachronistic Sunday, applauding divisions on the U.N. Security Council and saying the world is beginning to rebel against U.S. domination.

Emboldened by the divisions and by a new report noting improved cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors, Iraq has been more vocal in its anger toward the United States in recent days.

"What the fascist ruling gang in Washington does not know yet is that the world — even those countries America considers friends — has changed and does not accept the fascist logic that justifies war and belittles its possible effects," the newspaper Al-Thawra, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, said in a front-page editorial.

From The Associated Press

G.I. show 'profiles' U.S. troops

BY JUDITH S. GILLIES

The Washington Post

Jerry Bruckheimer, who produced the war drama "Black Hawk Down," teamed with reality pro Bertram van Munster to produce "Profiles From the Front Line."

"Profiles," a six-part series that began on Feb. 27, offers a look into the lives of individuals and units serving in Afghanistan. There are times of danger and hair-raising missions such as scouts locating and disarming rockets aimed at an American camp or jets landing on carriers at night; occasions for serious reflection as to what ideas are worth dying for; and lighter moments such as members of the U.S. military teaching village youths how to play baseball.

"Profiles" was filmed by eight teams of two or three people from early summer into fall of last year, said van Munster ("Amazing Race," "Wild Things"). All footage is real, he said, with no re-enactments.

The project was dangerous,

van Munster observed, "going into a country strewn with land mines ... you have to hope for the best. The whole country is armed to the teeth."

Loyalties also are uncertain, he said, for they are bought and sold in Afghanistan. "So one moment somebody is your friend and the next moment he is your enemy. ... We all went home safely, but you can be ambushed very easily."

Safety of the crews was an important concern, said Phil Strub, special assistant for entertainment media at the Pentagon. But the Defense Department couldn't accept responsibility for that, he said.

"They got information as to what kind of gear they would need for living in an austere environment. ... A lot of these folks were experienced in working in unusual circumstances around the world."

Vince Ogilvie, who was the Pentagon's project officer for the series, said the interactions of the film crews and military personnel provided "a prelude to the process of embedding" media representatives

in military units for war coverage.

"Profiles" had crew members in different military units over time, he said. "Though they weren't reporting on a daily basis, they were with the unit — living with the unit and reporting on what different individuals or units were involved in."

"With each passing day, week, month came a better understanding," Ogilvie said. The crew members had to be in good physical shape for tasks such as carrying equipment, he said. "They climbed the mountains with the special ops guys. In one of the shots, you can hear the cameraman breathing heavily."

Ground rules for the series were "mostly for the protection of classified material — we didn't want the safety of our people jeopardized," Ogilvie said. "There are still soldiers there and many of the issues captured on film are still ongoing."

The producers worked with Defense officials from the start, Bruckheimer said. "We

knew we had to get Pentagon approval. We went up through channels and eventually met with higher-ups in the Pentagon. They were very receptive to the concept of showing what U.S. forces were doing in Afghanistan."

"When we got into it, it was more of a cleanup operation," Bruckheimer said. "We weren't there during actual battles."

After filming started, Bruckheimer said, they were notified that they should not use last names of some of the servicemembers for security reasons. Ogilvie said the Pentagon also asked that identities of any captives or detainees be obscured.

The Pentagon looked at the final product to be sure there were no security breaches, van Munster said, and no changes were necessary.

The series makes no attempt to discuss policy issues and whether troops should be there. Rather, it focuses on a variety of individuals, explaining who they are, what they do, and what they think and feel about their efforts.

Group claims Saudi Arabia opening bases to U.S.

BY SALAH NASRAWI

The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Saudi Arabia has allowed U.S. troops to use several of its air bases and offered logistical support for U.S. ground forces in a possible war against Saddam Hussein, a Saudi dissident group said Saturday.

The Saudi Islamic Reform Movement said the move came after an understanding reached by the kingdom and the United States.

Saad al-Faqih, the London-based representative of the movement, said soon after the agreement was reached six weeks ago, the United States deployed some 9,000 troops in a base in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraqi border.

Al-Faqih said Saudi Arabia has also provided facilities in

five major air bases, including one in the capital, Riyadh, and others in Araar, Tabuk and Hafer al-Baten on the Iraqi border.

Pentagon officials declined to comment Saturday about the issue.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal denied the dissidents' reports, saying Saudi Arabia will not participate in any military actions against Iraq.

"The kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] does not and will not approve the use of its land for aggression against any Arab and Islamic country, including Iraq," Saud said.

Al-Faqih, whose reports about internal developments in the kingdom have proved credible, said he received his information from Saudi delegates who participated in negotiations with the Americans.

"There is no other reason for these troops to be there if not to take part in the war against Iraq," al-Faqih said in a telephone interview.

On Friday, sources in Saudi Arabia said the government shut down civilian flights to the airport in Araar, about 40 miles south of the Iraqi border.

The sources, who spoke on the condition they not be further identified, said hundreds of American troops have deployed at the Araar airport. The Pentagon declined to comment on the report.

Saudi Arabia — fearful of internal, Muslim extremist backlash — has said it will not allow U.S. troops to use its territories to attack Iraq. But officials said U.S. and British flights from an air base in the kingdom to monitor Iraq would continue.

Jet crashes in Fla.

VALPARAISO, Fla. — A T-38 military training jet crashed Saturday in a residential area of Valparaiso, Fla., hitting two homes, officials said.

The pilot escaped with minor injuries, and no one on the ground was hurt.

The plane hit two houses in this Panhandle town outside of Eglin Air Force Base around 1:45 p.m., said Lt. Col. Debbie Millett, a base spokeswoman.

She said the pilot ejected and was brought to a military hospital in good condition. People were inside the houses at the time of the crash. Investigators are talking to them, she said.

Millett said the jet did not come from Eglin, but was based at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M.

From The Associated Press

Suspect in death says she's a 'scapegoat'

BY JEREMY KIRK

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A 21-year-old American woman accused of killing a coed friend testified in court Thursday that she is a "scapegoat" pegged as a killer to protect U.S. soldiers.

During her first day of trial in Seoul, Kenzi Noris Elizabeth Snider of St. Cloud, Minn., agreed that she confessed to the killing because Army Criminal Investigation Command and FBI agents kept telling her she was wrong about her version of events. She is accused of killing Jamie Lynn Penich, 20, of Derry Township, Pa., on March 18, 2001, in Seoul.

Snider is charged with unintentionally injuring a person resulting in death and faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

Snider affirmed in court that she made the scapegoat comment to her South Korean attorney, Om Sang-ik, while in jail about one month ago.

"Remember you said to your lawyer in prison ... 'I'm a scapegoat for them to save the U.S. soldiers,'" asked Om through a translator.

"Yes," Snider answered.

U.S. Forces Korea spokeswoman Lee Ferguson said the trial is in South Korean

court and that it would not be appropriate to comment.

Penich died after a vicious stomping that broke her jaw, knocked her teeth out and compressed her chest in an Itaewon motel room. Penich and Snider were exchange students in Taegu.

Soon after the killing, Snider returned to the United States. Investigators focused on U.S. soldiers, who frequented the Itaewon bar where Snider and Penich spent the night of St. Patrick's Day. Evidence and an eyewitness pointed to a white male suspect wearing size 9 or 10 Sketchers-brand shoes.

At least five U.S. soldiers questioned were dismissed by investigators after they could not be linked to the killing.

A CID investigator said he noticed inconsistencies in Snider's statements and traveled with an FBI agent in February 2002 to Huntington, W.Va., to question her.

After three days of questioning, Snider said that she killed Penich after the latter made sexual advances, according to FBI extradition papers filed by U.S. District Attorney's office in Charleston, W.Va. Snider was extradited to South Korea in December 2002.

"When I kept telling them the truth,

they said I was lying," Snider said when asked Thursday why she confessed. Attorney Om said Snider believes two U.S. soldiers close to Snider and Penich the night of the killing committed the crime.

During more questioning, Snider agreed it was possible another girl in the room at the time of the killing was drugged. That girl, Anneloes Beverwijk of the Netherlands, said she slept through the killing.

When asked by her attorney, Snider agreed she never was read her rights and was told that if she wanted an attorney present, it would look like she wasn't cooperating.

She also agreed with her attorney that U.S. soldiers poured alcoholic drinks into her glass. Snider said it is possible drugs may have been involved.

According to Seoul prosecutors, their investigation showed Snider became angry at Penich's advances because her brother's friends had abused her when she was 4 years old, the statement said.

FBI papers said Snider hit Penich, causing her to fall in the bathtub. After dragging Penich from the bathroom, Snider "repeatedly trampled down hard on her face, neck and chest area very hard with her shoes on," the papers said.

Choe Song-won contributed to this report.
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Former Air Force Academy cadets speak out on assaults

BY COLLEEN LONG

The Associated Press

DENVER — Sharon Fullilove says the sexual assault she suffered at the Air Force Academy was so common that former cadets offered a grim warning to her and others at the school.

"During sexual assault awareness week, people told us that if you make it through all four years without being sexually assaulted, you're lucky," Fullilove said. "They also say if you want to have an Air Force career you should not report it."

At first, Fullilove didn't report the alleged assault for fear that doing so would ruin her military career.

"I really want to fly jets, and I had never quit anything in my life. I wanted to stay there," said the 21-year-old, whose mother is an Air Force colonel at the academy hospital. "I thought if I got through it and moved on, I'd be fine."

The Air Force has identified at least 54 allegations of rape or sexual assault at the academy outside Colorado Springs over the past 10 years, and officials say there are probably many more cadets who have not come forward.

At the academy Friday, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said he wants to root out any sexual predators still at the academy or in the Air Force.

He said the academy must ensure that conditions in its dormitories are "not conducive for would-be predators to be around females at the wrong time and in the wrong setting" when more than 200 female cadets arrive in 90 days.

Many cadets who made the reports say they were ostracized or reprimanded for infractions such as drinking alcohol or having sex in dorms.

The Air Force is investigat-

ing, and at least four U.S. senators have called for an outside inquiry.

Fullilove was a freshman in November 1999 when, she said, an upperclassman offered her a ride to her dorm from a campus lounge after dark.

She said he stopped the truck, locked the doors and raped her.

"People have to understand, this is nothing like a normal college," she said. "Upperclassmen are your superiors. You have to listen to them and obey their rules. You can't tell them to get out. I didn't feel safe."

A few months later, at her parents' coaxing, she reported the assault. "I was afraid that this would happen to someone else," she said.

The case was closed with no arrests or punishment. Fullilove, who is now a biology major at the University of Arizona, said the man who raped

her graduated and is in the Air Force.

Her mother, Air Force Lt. Col. Michaela Shafer, said investigators treated the family poorly.

"They told me my daughter was a liar," she said. "They looked me in the face, a fellow officer, a superior, and told me my daughter, who had been raped, was a liar."

Kate Summers, spokeswoman for the nonprofit Miles Foundation, which helps victims of military violence, said most military sexual assault cases involve a subordinate female victim.

"You can't make a blanket statement that men in the military are prone to violence, that's just not true," she said. "But there is a certain type of conditioning in the military as it relates to force. The training at the academies is the use of control and use of power, they're being trained to command. And some take it too far."

Disciplined for disrespect

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — A senior airman was convicted of six charges of disobedience and disrespect during a Feb. 18 court-martial, according to a base news release.

Senior Airman Lucinda F. Shaw, 303rd Intelligence Squadron, was reduced to airman basic, ordered to forfeit \$767 in pay per month for six months and reprimanded.

According to prosecutors, Shaw told superiors they would go to hell and questioned her first sergeant's authority. A jury panel of officers and enlisted airmen dismissed three more charges of disrespect, disobedience and disorderly conduct.

Senior airman pleads guilty

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — A senior airman pleaded guilty Feb. 20 to possessing computer images of minors having sex, according to a news release.

Senior Airman Dennis J. Scholz Jr., 5th Reconnaissance Squadron, was sentenced to eight months in prison, reduction to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge.

A roommate found the images on Scholz's computer and turned him in to his first sergeant, who notified the Office of Special Investigations. The inquiry yielded "numerous sexually explicit images and movie files involving minors," the release stated.

Internet café fracas

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — Two 2nd Infantry Division soldiers were allegedly involved in a fight around 11 p.m. Tuesday night at an Internet café, throwing a beer bottle and chairs, according to military and South Korean police officials.

South Korean police said a sergeant and private became angry after being denied change at an Internet café. The café's owner — identified only by his last name, Chang — said the soldiers threw chairs and ashtrays, injuring three Korean men, according to a Tongduchon police officer.

The two soldiers were arrested and turned over to military police, Han said.

Maj. Brian Maka, a 2ID public affairs officer, said the owner asked the soldiers to leave because they were being disruptive. The soldiers came back, Maka said, and threw a beer bottle but did not spark a physical altercation.

The soldiers' names could not be released because they hadn't been charged as of Thursday, Maka said.

From staff reports

New criticism for military's policy on gays

BY DAVID CRARY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As the U.S. military prepares for war overseas, one of its most nettlesome personnel policies is under escalating criticism at home.

Ten years after President Clinton proposed it, the "don't ask, don't tell" policy remains in place — an awkward compromise that allows gay men and lesbians to serve in uniform as long as they keep quiet about their sexual orientation.

Some people yearn to reinstate the previous policy, which made clear that homosexuals were not welcome in the ranks. From the opposite flank, there is greater pressure than ever to allow gays to serve openly; gay-rights groups argue that the military's war readiness is undercut by a policy that alienates gay soldiers or forces them from the ranks.

The Bush administration and the Pentagon say there are no imminent plans to abandon "don't ask, don't tell."

"As Winston Churchill said of democracy, it's the worst system possible except for any other," said Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University sociologist who helped devise the policy. "The military says it's working OK; it's the best option available. I think it's here indefinitely."

Timed to coincide with the military buildup around Iraq, the campaign against the policy has included these recent initiatives:

■ Human Rights Watch, the largest U.S.-based human rights organization, issued a report denouncing "don't ask, don't tell," urging President Bush to repudiate it, and assailing the military as "a bastion of officially sanctioned discrimination against homosexuals."

■ Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group for gays and lesbians in the military, launched a "Freedom to Serve" campaign aimed at overturning the policy. The network also reports an upsurge of requests for advice and support from gay servicemembers deployed near Iraq.

■ The Human Rights Campaign, a leading gay rights group, compiled first-person accounts from dozens of gay and lesbian veterans describing the challenges of serving dutifully in an unwelcoming environment.

"I loved the Navy — it was good to me, but I was very bitter my last few years,"

said one of those veterans, Nick Marulli, who served from 1977 to '97. "It was difficult having to live in two worlds."

To guard against a discharge that would jeopardize his pension, Marulli avoided telling even close friends in the service that he was gay. He is convinced that gays could serve openly, without problems, if political and military leaders backed the change.

"The military is about discipline, it's about the example set by leaders," said Marulli, 44, now a computer instructor from Crofton, Md. "If the command says, 'This is our policy, you're going to live by it and respect it,' people would jump in line and say, 'Yes, sir.'"

"There are no plans to change or modify the policy at this time," the Defense Department said in a statement. "The department continues to work tirelessly to administer that law in a manner that is both fair and consistent ... treating all servicemembers with dignity and respect."

Groups that want gays allowed to serve openly are citing national security and impending war as reasons to make the change. For example, there was an outcry from gay-rights supporters when the military confirmed in November that nine Army linguists, including six trained to speak Arabic, had been dismissed because they were gay.

C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, estimated that at least 7,500 gays and lesbians were already deployed in the Middle East in preparation for war.

"They're willing to put their lives on the line to defend freedom when they're denied freedom at home," he said.

Such arguments irk Elaine Donnelly, president of an advocacy group called the Center for Military Readiness, which opposes liberalization of military personnel policies. She says the military should ask recruits if they are gay and exclude those who say "yes."

"Gay activists and their allies in the media are trying to wrap their radical agenda in the flag of 'national security' and 'military necessity,'" Donnelly said in a policy statement. "In the interests of national security, social engineering must be brought to an end." Since the policy was implemented, more than 8,500 servicemembers have been discharged under its provisions, according to the Pentagon.

8 shot, 2 stabbed in club brawl

BY ELIZABETH LESURE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eight people were shot and two more were stabbed early Sunday when a brawl erupted at a nightclub inside a Times Square arcade early Sunday, police said. Two other clubgoers were hurt as the frantic crowd tried to get out.

The most seriously injured appeared to be a 22-year-old man who was shot in the chest and a 19-year-old woman who was shot in the stomach, police said. They were in critical condition at Bellevue Hospital. The other injuries were not life threatening, authorities said.

Police said they were searching for two suspects — one shooter and one stabber — in the fight, which broke out about 2:40 a.m. on the second floor of Broadway City Arcade.

The arcade is at the southern end of Times Square, a stretch often busy with tour-

ists. It shares a block with Madame Tussaud's wax museum and the theaters that stage the musicals "The Lion King" and "42nd Street."

Police last year announced a crackdown on gang violence in the area in response to brawls that had broken out. But police officials said Sunday's fight, which broke out as patrons were dancing, was apparently not gang-related.

All 10 shooting and stabbing victims were between 17 and 25 years old. Police said two other people were injured as they were trampled by people rushing to escape the club.

Security guard Omar Leger said he was inside a bathroom when he heard gunshots, and emerged to see people running toward the coat check and exits. He said clubgoers were falling and tripping over each other as they scrambled to get out.

"People were getting trampled," Leger said. "Sometimes we have a couple of fights, but nothing like this."

Leger estimated as many as 350 people were in the club at the time. The club's crowd capacity was not immediately available, but Ilyse Fink, a spokeswoman for the city Department of Buildings, said she could not recall any code violations.

Conditions for all the victims not in critical condition were not immediately available, but at least four had been released from the hospital by Sunday afternoon, hospitals said. The victims were being treated at Bellevue Hospital, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center and New York Weill Cornell Hospital.

Investigators spent several hours interviewing people at the nightclub, and also went to hospitals to speak with the injured.

Police were looking into whether three suspects arrested on weapons charges at the Times Square subway station shortly after the fight were connected to the shooting.

Dude! Accidental Dell post causes refund debate

BY DAVID KOENIG

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Dell Computer Corp. says a refund offer aimed at a handful of universities and corporate customers wound up being posted on the Internet, prompting many other people to seek the refunds.

Dell is declining to pay the rebates to customers who it says were ineligible. The company has sent letters to people seeking refunds to verify those buyers who were eligible for money back, a spokesman said.

But customers who tried to take advantage of the refund say Dell failed to disclose all the limitations on it. They say Dell call-center representatives told them they were eligible for the rebates.

The refunds totaled up to \$610 for faculty and students at some universities and \$100 for employees of five targeted companies.

They were offered on machines that sold for as little as \$800.

Dean Kline, a Dell spokesman, said the company has offered similar targeted appeals before, but this one spun out of control when somebody posted the offer, which Dell distributed by e-mail, on a bargain-hunter Web site, FatWallet.com.

Kline said the posting deleted a section that explained the offer, which expired in December, was limited to people at specific colleges or companies.

The spokesman said Dell was working quickly to identify customers eligible for refunds but would deny the claims of about 2,500 people. He declined to estimate the dollar total of those claims but acknowledged the denials could leave some customers angry.

"It's very frustrating for us to have it become a customer-satisfaction issue," he said.

The company does not intend to drop targeted refund offers, which Kline said are well-received.

Over half of violent crimes in 2000 unreported

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than half of all violent crimes committed in the United States in 2000 were never reported to police, often because the victim felt it was a private matter or the injuries were not significant, government figures released Sunday show.

About 49 percent of the 6.2 million rapes, armed robberies and assaults were reported to police in 2000, according to the Justice Department. Armed robbery was the most likely to be reported, simple assault the least likely.

Crime victims most often cited "a personal matter" for not reporting a crime, particularly rapes and simple assaults. About 17 percent said they did not tell police because it was not important enough, while 14 percent said they told

someone else such as a school principal or business associate.

About 5 percent said they feared reprisals, a number that rose to 12 percent for victims who decided not to disclose sexual assaults.

Susan Herman, executive director of the National Center for Victims of Crimes, said many people are frightened that the offender might return if they go to the police. In some cases, a perpetrator they know has threatened more harm if they speak up, she said.

"It's very likely that you will have put yourself in danger by reporting to police," Herman said.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics report found that police were more likely to be told about crimes committed by strangers than by acquaintances, and people were less in-

clined to report armed robbery if the offender was believed to be a gang member.

Victims who were injured usually reported crime, including 90 percent of gunshot victims. Women and older people more frequently reported crimes to police than did men and younger people.

James Lynch, law professor at American University's Center for Justice, Law and Society, said the new report does not address situations in which the victim might be partly to blame. "You're not going to call the police if you started it, and you lost," he said.

The results are based on interviews of more than 872,000 people age 12 or older who were crime victims between 1992 and 2000. The report found that reporting of violent crime has increased from an average of 43 percent during 1992-1999 to 49 percent in 2000.

Study shows link between fast food, TV and obesity

The Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Bulletin from the medical front: Eating fast food and sitting hours on end in front of the TV are really terrible for the waistline.

As obvious as this might sound, there actually is little firm scientific data to prove the point, especially against fast food. But now a large study released Saturday shows just how bad super-sized burgers and non-stop tube time can be for one's health.

"Fast food emphasizes primordial preferences for salt and fat," said researcher Mark Pereira. "This may promote overeating."

The project did turn up one surprise: While a lot of fast food is clearly bad for white people, it seems to make no difference at all for blacks.

The reason for this is unclear, but the researchers said the data suggest that black people's diets are often just as unhealthy at home as they are at the drive-through window. So a lot of fast food doesn't make matters any worse than they already are.

The key findings:

■ Whites who eat fast food twice or more a week have a 50 percent greater risk of obesity than do those who eat this way once or less.

■ Their risk of abnormal glucose control, an inability to break down sugar efficiently that often precedes diabetes, is double.

■ Whites who eat fast food more than twice a week and also spend at least 2½ hours a day watching television have triple the risk of both obesity and abnormal glucose control, compared to those who eat out once or less and watch no more than an hour and a half of TV.

And of course, there are all those calories. A supersize fast food meal may exceed 1,600 calories, more than many people should eat in an entire day.

Pro-U.S. leader wins Turkey vote

BY LOUIS MEIXLER

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — The charismatic Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a huge victory in parliamentary by-elections Sunday, opening the way for him to become prime minister and strengthening his hand to unite a government divided over whether to deploy U.S. troops for a war in Iraq.

Erdogan has advocated basing troops in Turkey, and analysts say one of his first moves as premier may be to purge ministers opposed to a U.S. deployment.

Preliminary results showed Erdogan's Justice and Development Party capturing 84.7 percent of the vote in by-elections in the southern town of Siirt, with all of the ballot boxes counted.

Prime Minister Abdullah Gul is expected to resign on Wednesday to make way for Erdogan to take over the government.

It was not clear when parliament would be ready to take

up a new resolution to let in the U.S. soldiers. Turkish media say a vote could come as early as Thursday, but Justice Party members said it could take another two weeks before a new government is in place.

Erdogan's election would likely end some of the confusion within the Turkish government. Gul is head of the administration, but Erdogan leads the ruling party and is widely regarded as the power behind the scenes. It was Erdogan who was invited to the White House to meet with President Bush after Turkey's national elections in November.

Some analysts say those muddled lines of authority contributed to the failure of the resolution that would have allowed in the U.S. troops. The resolution failed by a mere four votes in the 550-seat parliament despite the party's huge majority of 362 seats.

"In the November elections, the person who was the

prime minister in our hearts was not able to become a deputy. This week this mistake, this shame is being rectified," said Deputy Prime Minister Ertugrul Yalcinbayir.

The vote comes as Washington pressures Turkey to allow in U.S. combat troops to open a northern front against neighboring Iraq in a possible war. Ships carrying equipment for the soldiers are already off the Turkish coast and it was unclear how long Washington could wait for a Turkish decision.

Erdogan has hinted that he will soon resubmit a troop deployment motion. Although the Turkish public overwhelmingly opposes an Iraq war, Erdogan urged legislators after last week's failed vote to act "not to satisfy their daily emotions but toward the country's future."

Rebuffing the United States risks straining ties with Washington and losing a say in the future of neighboring Iraq — as well as a \$15 billion aid package in exchange for allowing in U.S. troops.

N. Korea claims U.S. is plotting a nuclear attack

BY JAE-SUK YOO

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Sunday accused the United States of plotting a "nuclear attack" as U.S. and South Korean soldiers staged a military exercise near the border with the communist country.

Pyongyang also slammed Washington's recent decision to send additional long-range bombers to Guam, about 2,000 miles from the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea claims that Washington is planning pre-emptive strikes on its military bases and nuclear facilities, which U.S. officials believe are being used to make atomic bombs.

The North's state KCNA news agency said the U.S. Department of Defense mapped out a strike plan including

"not only cruise missile strikes and massive air raids, etc., but the use of tactical nuclear weapons."

North Korea's "army and people will take every possible self-defensive measure to cope with the U.S. bellicose forces' new war moves," it said.

Tension over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons development heightened last week after North Korean fighter jets briefly intercepted a U.S. reconnaissance plane over the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

U.S. officials also believe Pyongyang may be preparing to test fire another missile soon, following the launch of an anti-ship missile into the sea off its east coast late last month.

Pentagon is deploying 12 B-1 and 12 B-52 bombers to

Guam to deter conflicts that could arise in the West Pacific.

"These moves indicate that the U.S. Air Force is taking the lead in implementing the U.S. imperialists' strategy to mount a pre-emptive attack on (North Korea)," said Pyongyang's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper.

During Sunday's joint exercise, hundreds of soldiers backed by tanks and armored vehicles crossed a river using a makeshift bridge. Two military helicopters hovered above.

The annual drill called Army Readiness Training Evaluation Program III involved some 7,000 troops and some 300 military vehicles. Washington keeps 37,000 troops in South Korea.

Washington says it wants to settle the dispute diplomatically, but has not ruled out a military option.

Dutchman Derksen flies past Els, denies Big Easy fifth victory of '03

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Robert-Jan Derksen, not even ranked among the top 3,000 players in golf, pulled off a stunning victory Sunday in the Dubai Desert Classic with a birdie on the 18th hole to defeat Ernie Els.

Derksen, a 29-year-old Dutchman who had never finished in the top 10 on the European tour, closed with a 7-under 65 and denied Els his fifth victory of the year.

Derksen finished at 17-under 271 for his first victory, which came four months after his sixth trip to European tour qualifying school.

Els already has won twice in Hawaii on the PGA Tour and twice in Australia. He has been runner-up in his other 72-hole tournaments this year — to the unheralded Derksen, and to Zhang Lian-Wei in the Singapore Masters.

Tiger Woods was supposed to play in the Dubai Desert Classic, but he withdrew because of safety concerns with prospects of a war against Iraq.

Hoch shoots into Doral lead

MIAMI — Scott Hoch finally found a swing that worked and a putting stroke that couldn't fail Saturday to shoot a 6-under 66 and share the lead with Bob Tway going into the final round of the Ford Championship at Doral.

Ready to give up on the tournament for the second time this week, Hoch shortened his swing to compensate for a sore left wrist and went one tear, making birdies on seven of his final 11 holes.

He was at 14-under 202 and will play in the final group with Tway, who parred the final eight holes for a 3-under 69.

Six others were within three shots of the lead.

Lietzke piles up birdies for share of lead in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY — Bruce Lietzke made seven birdies Saturday before bogeying the 18th hole to fall into a three-way tie for the lead with Tom Jenkins and Ea-

Sports in brief

monn Darcy at the end of the second round of the MasterCard Classic.

Lietzke finished with a 4-under 68 to tie Jenkins and Darcy at 9-under in the \$2 million Champions Tour tournament.

Tom Kite shot a 65 to move 7 under for the tournament — two shots in back of the leaders.

Schumacher off to balky start

MELBOURNE, Australia — Formula One opened a new season under new rules, producing a striking result: Michael Schumacher failed to finish among the top three.

In a sport ruled by the German driver and his Ferrari team, the Australian Grand Prix was won by David Coulthard on Sunday. It marked the first time in 20 races Schumacher was not on the podium.

"It's natural that one day it will change," said Schumacher, who led early but finished fourth. "In sport that's the way it goes."

Schumacher, coming off the greatest season in F1 history, won 11 races last year while his Ferrari team captured 15 of 17 events.

The last time he was not first, second or third was at the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in 2001. He was trying for his fourth straight win in Australia.

Ferrari had been among the top three at every F1 race since September 1999. Schumacher had not relinquished a lead since the U.S. Grand Prix in September 2000.

In an effort to slow Ferrari's dominance and boost slumping TV ratings, F1 introduced a host of rule changes this season. Among them are one-car-at-a-time qualifying sessions over two days and other regulations governing fuel, car setup and points distribution based on race finishes.

Coulthard won for the 13th time. The McLaren driver took advantage of a spinout by leader Juan Pablo Montoya and a flag ordering Schumacher to the pits.

Coulthard won by 8.6 seconds in the 58-lap race around the 3.3-mile circuit. He was timed in 1 hour, 34 minutes, 42.144 seconds. Montoya finished second

and Kimi Raikkonen was third. This was McLaren's first victory since Coulthard won the Monaco Grand Prix last year.

W. Klitschko hit with stunning KO loss

HANOVER, Germany — Corrie Sanders knocked out Wladimir Klitschko 27 seconds into the second round Saturday to take the WBO heavyweight title in a major upset.

Sanders caught the 6-foot-7, 240-pound Klitschko with a short hard left with 33 seconds left in the first round, then sent him down to the canvas three more times.

It was Klitschko's sixth defense of the lightly regarded World Boxing Organization belt. He was regarded by many as a top contender in the weight class and had just signed a nine-fight deal with HBO.

The outcome drew boos from a crowd of 11,500, angered over the brevity of the fight and the unexpected result.

Klitschko (40-2) went down three straight times in the last minute of the first round, reeling around the ring as he tried to avoid Sanders' blows.

LeBeau joins Bills as assistant

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Dick LeBeau joined the Buffalo Bills as an assistant after being fired as coach of the Cincinnati Bengals at the end of last season.

He is scheduled to begin work Monday, team spokesman Scott Berchtold said Sunday.

LeBeau, a respected defensive strategist, will serve under coach Gregg Williams and work with defensive coordinator Jerry Gray. He will try to improve a defense that ranked 27th in points allowed, 29th in yards rushing per game and 32nd in takeaways last season.

Packers sign fullback Luchey

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers signed free-agent fullback Nicolas Luchey to a six-year deal Saturday.

Continued on Page 11

Sopranos star hit?

James Gandolfini may give new meaning to the phrase "putting out a contract." Apparently, HBO made the "Sopranos" star an offer he could refuse, and he's threatening to walk off the show before production on the fifth season starts March 24, reports Entertainment Weekly.

He has sent the cable channel the legal equivalent of a dead fish — a breach-of-contract lawsuit urging the court to free him from his obligation to return to work on the grounds that HBO has violated the terms of his deal.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in California Superior Court, claims HBO was supposed to notify Gandolfini within 10 days if series creator David Chase got a pay raise. HBO neglected to do so after offering Chase \$20 million for Season 5, the suit says. The complaint also says that, should a sixth season be ordered, it will violate the seven-year term limit imposed on entertainers' personal-service contracts in California.

The network may have to almost double his salary. Gandolfini reportedly wants a raise, from the \$400,000 per episode he earns now to \$750,000.

Harrison Ford Honored

Harrison Ford, famed for his long-running efforts to protect the environment, was recently honored by the Natural Resources Defense Council at a gala event in New York, reports Hello! magazine.

Faces 'n' places

Sigourney Weaver and Robert Kennedy Jr. also attended the event.

The 60-year-old has become increasingly outspoken on social and political issues in recent years, most recently launching an attack on the policies of President Bush.

After newspapers reported that he was in favor of war in Iraq, Ford said he was "appalled by the idea," adding: "What I'm for is a regime change on both sides."

Flatley disagreeing

Former "Riverdance" star Michael Flatley has filed a \$100 million countersuit against a woman who alleges he raped her in a Las Vegas hotel.

In the suit filed Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court, Flatley accused the woman of attempting to extort money from him by claiming a consensual one-night stand last fall was a sexual assault.

"We filed the lawsuit because what this lady did was outrageous," said his lawyer, Bert Fields. "It will do tremendous damage to Mr. Flatley. Even when he wins the case, some people will still believe the accusations."

Flatley filed the suit after first taking his case to the FBI, Fields said.

Calls seeking comment from the woman's lawyer, D. Dean Mauro, were not returned. Mauro has said she met the

44-year-old dance star at an event in Las Vegas in September, and that he invited her to visit him for a day of sightseeing, shopping and gambling.

The woman filed a \$35 million suit against Flatley on Tuesday in Illinois. The charges stem from her October visit to Flatley in Las Vegas, where he starred in the show "Lord of the Dance." She says the Chicago-born performer raped her Oct. 19 in his suite at the Venetian Resort Hotel-Casino.

The woman reported the alleged incident to police but declined to press charges, according to Las Vegas police Lt. Jeff Carlson.

Rosa Parks avoids awards

Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks will not attend the NAACP Image Awards because the event's host, Cedric the Entertainer, made jokes about her in the film "Barbershop" that she considered offensive.

In a letter dated Thursday, the co-founder of the Rosa & Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, Elaine Steele, said that they appreciated the invitation from the NAACP.

However, she said the jokes made by Cedric the Entertainer in "Barbershop" represent "a sensitive area to us."

"We with many others do not understand the endorsement the NAACP gave to the hurtful jokes in the movie 'Barbershop,' about America's Civil Rights leaders," the letter stated.

From wire reports

Raptors 107, Hawks 98

ATLANTA — Vince Carter scored a season-high 43 points, the 11th 40-point game of his career and his first in nearly a year, as Toronto defeated Atlanta 107-98.

Voshon Lenard added 23 for Toronto, while Antonio Davis added 13 and Alvin Williams 10 in Saturday night's game.

Glenn Robinson led Atlanta with 29, while Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 22 and Theo Ratliff had a season-high 20.

Carter finished 16-for-24 from the field, including 5-for-8 on three-pointers, to set a Philips Arena scoring record for an opponent.

It was his first 40-point game since a 43-point outing at Houston on March 5, 2002. His career high is 51 against Phoenix on Jan. 27, 2000.

Grizzlies 115, Cavaliers 89

CLEVELAND — Pau Gasol scored 27

NBA

points, Mike Miller added 21 and Memphis rolled to its most lopsided victory this season.

Memphis came within one point of the most lopsided win in the franchise's eight-year history.

Stromile Swift added 20 points — 14 on dunks — as the Grizzlies got their 20th victory and improved to 10-10 this season against Eastern Conference teams.

The Cavs (11-52) dropped their sixth straight, 12th in 13 games and were embarrassed by a team that came in just 4-25 on the road.

Nuggets 98, Heat 92

MIAMI — Rookie Junior Harrington scored a career-high 19 points and Nene Hilario added 16 as Denver snapped a 14-game losing streak.

The Nuggets also ended a 16-game

road losing streak dating back to Jan. 3 with the franchise's first victory in Miami since 1994.

Denver bounced back after scoring only nine points in the first quarter, tallying at least 28 in the each of the next three quarters. A 12-0 run late in the fourth quarter cemented the rare victory.

Juwan Howard had 12 points and eight rebounds, and reserve Shammmond Williams scored seven of his 11 points in the fourth quarter. Rasual Butler led the Heat with 22 points.

Mavericks 101, Jazz 77

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki's 21 points and Adrian Griffin's 16 led Dallas' rout.

Michael Finley had 14 points, Steve Nash added 12 and Shawn Bradley contributed 11 points and six rebounds for the Mavericks, who stretched their winning streak to four games.

Dallas led by 28 points after the third quarter, allowing coach Don Nelson to rest his starters. The Mavericks were in front by as many as 33 in a ragged fourth quarter.

Karl Malone's 16 points and 11 each from Andrei Kirilenko and Carlos Arroyo paced the Jazz, who've lost five of their past seven.

Rockets 83, Nets 71

HOUSTON — Cuttino Mobley scored 18 points and Steve Francis had 17 as Houston took advantage of a record-low first half by New Jersey.

The Nets lost for the fourth straight time and for the seventh time in eight games.

New Jersey scored eight points in the second quarter and 24 in the first half, both franchise lows. The Nets finished at 36 percent from the field. Jason Kidd, the team's leading scorer, shot only 3-for-12 for six points.

Continued on Page 12

No. 1 Arizona 88, Oregon 80

TUCSON, Ariz. — Jason Gardner scored 21 of his season-high 27 points in the second half and No. 1 Arizona pulled away to beat Oregon 88-80 on Saturday.

The Wildcats (25-2, 17-1 Pac-10) took control with a 17-2 run that put them up 66-56 with 6:39 to play on Salim Stoudamire's 16-footer.

Stoudamire, benched in the second half against Oregon State on Thursday night because coach Lute Olson didn't like his attitude, had 19 points, 17 in the second half.

Luke Ridnour had 26 points and seven assists for the Ducks (20-9, 10-8), who were swept on their Arizona trip. Ridnour broke Oregon's season assist record with 188, surpassing the mark of 184 set by Ron Lee in 1975-76.

No. 2 Kentucky 69, No. 3 Florida 67

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Gerald Fitch had 18 points for Kentucky, which finished unbeaten in the Southeastern Conference.

The Wildcats (26-3, 16-0) snapped the Gators' (24-6, 12-4) school-record, 19-game home winning streak.

With Florida trailing by two freshman Anthony Robinson got the ball after two missed free throws by Keith Bogans. His 22-foot heave at the buzzer caught nothing but air and Kentucky won its 20th straight game — the longest active streak in the country — and became only the second team to go 16-0 in the SEC. Kentucky did it in 1996 en route to the sixth of its seven national titles.

Matt Bonner had 25 points for Florida.

No. 4 Texas 76, No. 5 Oklahoma 71

NORMAN, Okla. — T.J. Ford scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half, including a big fallaway jumper with 20 seconds left, as the Longhorns overcame a 15-point deficit.

Royal Ivey had 16 points for Texas (22-5, 13-3 Big 12), which ended Oklahoma's 37-game home winning streak. The victory means Texas is the No. 2 seed in next week's Big 12 tournament. Oklahoma will be the third seed.

Hollis Price had 22 points for Oklahoma (21-6, 12-4), but didn't score over the final six minutes.

No. 8 Marquette 70, Cincinnati 61

MILWAUKEE — Dwyane Wade scored 26 points and the Golden Eagles won their first Conference USA title.

Wade had 10 rebounds, including four consecutive in the closing minutes to help Marquette (23-4, 14-2) become the first team other than Cincinnati to win the regular-season title outright in the eight seasons Conference USA has been in existence.

Leonard Stokes had 10 points for the Bearcats (17-10, 9-7).

College basketball**No. 9 Wake Forest 78, N.C. State 72**

RALEIGH, N.C. — Josh Howard scored 27 points, including six free throws in the final 1.7 seconds, as the Demon Deacons won their first outright Atlantic Coast Conference title since 1962.

Wake Forest (23-4, 13-3) set a school record for league victories, closing out ACC play by winning 11 of 12.

Marcus Melvin and Julius Hodge each had 17 points for the Wolfpack (16-11, 9-7).

No. 11 Xavier 96, Temple 65

CINCINNATI — Romain Sato scored 29 points and Lionel Chalmers and David West each had 17 as the Musketeers (24-4, 15-1 Atlantic 10) tied a school record with their 15th consecutive victory, matching the mark set in 1987-88.

Alex Wesby had 24 points and David Hawkins added 20 for Temple (13-14, 10-6), which had won six in a row.

No. 15 Louisville 100, Charlotte 59

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Luke Whitehead had 19 points and a career-high 15 rebounds to lead the Cardinals.

Kendall Darte added a career-high 16 points for Louisville (21-6, 11-5 Conference USA), which played without senior center Marvin Stone, its second-leading scorer and rebounder, who sat out as the NCAA continued looking into his amateur status.

Demon Brown scored 12 points for Charlotte (13-15, 8-8).

No. 16 Notre Dame 86, Georgetown 80

WASHINGTON — Chris Thomas had 29 points and seven rebounds as Notre Dame snapped a three-game losing streak.

Thomas was 9-for-16 from the field, including 3-for-8 from three-point range, and 8-for-9 from the free throw line, including four after Georgetown pulled to 82-80 with 20 seconds left. Notre Dame (22-8, 10-6 Big East) completed its best regular season since 1988-89 with its fourth straight victory over Georgetown (14-13, 6-10), which sat 26 points and nine rebounds from Mike Sweetney.

No. 17 Stanford 72, No. 22 California 60

STANFORD, Calif. — Josh Childress had 15 points and 10 rebounds as No. 17 Stanford continued its dominance of rival California at home.

With the victory over the 22nd-ranked Bears, Stanford (23-7, 14-4) finished second in the Pac-10 and earned the second seed behind No. 1.

Arizona in the conference tournament next week in Los Angeles.

The Cardinal snapped a two-game losing streak against their Bay area rival.

The Golden Bears (20-7, 13-5) were lifeless most of the first half, getting dominated on the boards and outthrustled to loose balls, and couldn't get in sync on either end of the court.

Brian Wethers had four three-pointers in the second half and finished with 16 points, but Cal shot 33 percent. Stanford sealed the game with three-pointers by Matt Lottich, Julius Barnes and Josh Childress in the final minutes.

No. 18 Memphis 90, UAB 79

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Chris Massie had 27 points and 11 rebounds and Antonio Burks had 11 points and 12 assists as the Tigers won their 11th straight.

The Tigers (22-5, 13-3 Conference USA) lost out on a share of the league title because of Marquette's victory over Cincinnati and will be the No. 2 seed into next week's tournament at Louisville.

Demario Eddins led UAB (16-11, 8-8) with 18 points.

No. 19 Creighton 57, Indiana St. 56

ST. LOUIS — Kyle Korver had 15 points and nine rebounds and Creighton won despite not scoring for the game's final 4:52.

The second-seeded Bluejays (27-4) advanced to the semifinals of the Missouri Valley Conference tournament.

David Moss had 12 points for the Sycamores (7-24), who lost 17 of their past 19.

No. 20 Oklahoma St. 77, Texas A&M 52

STILLWATER, Okla. — Ivan McFarlin had 17 points and 14 rebounds as Oklahoma State ended a three-game losing streak.

Melvin Sanders also had 17 points for the Cowboys (21-8, 10-6 Big 12).

Bernard King had 17 points for the Aggies (14-13, 6-10).

No. 23 Mississippi St. 67, Auburn 45

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Derrick Zimmerman had 15 points and eight assists as Mississippi State clinched the Southeastern Conference West title.

Mississippi State (19-8, 9-7) won the West Division for the first time since 1995-96, and earned a bye in next week's conference tournament.

Marquis Daniels had 14 points for the Tigers (19-10, 8-8), who finished the season losing five of seven.

From The Associated Press

Continued from Page 10

Luchey, an unrestricted free agent, joined the Packers after considering re-signing with Cincinnati or going to Cleveland.

The 6-foot-1, 270-pound Luchey was a fifth-round draft pick of the Bengals in 1999 out of Miami. He had 12 carries last year for 59 yards, and caught seven passes for 46 yards.

Spurs' Robinson back on injured list

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio Spurs center David

Sports in brief continued

Robinson returned to the injured list with a recurring lower back injury.

It's the third time this season that the 37-year-old Robinson, who's playing his 14th and final NBA season, has been sidelined with back trouble.

The 7-foot-1 center had missed nine of his team's 60 games entering Sunday's game at Boston. Robinson is averaging 9.2 points, a career low by far, and 8.4 rebounds.

Bengals sign DT Thornton

CINCINNATI — Defensive tackle John Thornton, an unrestricted free agent, signed a six-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals on Saturday.

The Bengals did not disclose the terms of the contract, but The Cincinnati Post and The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that the six-year deal is worth \$22.5 million, including a \$5 million signing bonus.

Thornton, 26, spent the last four seasons with Tennessee.

From The Associated Press

NBA continued

Continued from Page 11

Yao Ming added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets and Glen Rice scored 12 off the bench.

Clippers 103, Bulls 97

CHICAGO — The Los Angeles Clippers ended an eight-game skid — their longest losing streak of the season — and gave Dennis Johnson his first victory as their head coach.

Corey Maggette scored 25 points and Quentin Richardson added 21.

Jalen Rose scored 30 points and Eddy Curry added 26 for Chicago, which has lost four of five.

Rookie Chris Wilcox added 12 points and six rebounds for Los Angeles.

Bucks 138, Warriors 133 (OT)

MILWAUKEE — Sam Cassell made five free throws in the final 18 seconds of overtime after Gary Payton made a three-pointer with 3.4 seconds left to force overtime.

Payton scored 28 points, his most since joining Milwaukee nine games ago. Cassell finished with 28 points and 13 assists.

The Bucks rallied from a 16-point deficit in the final 9:38 of regulation.

Antawn Jamison led Golden State with 40 points. Gilbert Arenas scored 30 points and Troy Murphy had a career-high 22 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 94, Pacers 80

PORTLAND, Ore. — Rasheed Wallace had 23 points and 14 rebounds as Portland easily defeated struggling Indiana.

The Pacers have won just one of their past 10 games and have lost eight straight on the road — but they're still atop the Central Division with Detroit.

Pacers forward Ron Artest was called for a flagrant foul on Bonzi Wells early in the second quarter. If the NBA upholds the foul, Artest — who went into the game with five flagrant foul points — will be suspended for Sunday night's game against the Sacramento Kings.

Jermaine O'Neal led Indiana with 25 points.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	38	25	.603	—
Philadelphia	36	25	.590	1
Boston	36	26	.581	1½
Orlando	32	31	.508	6
Washington	30	32	.484	7½
New York	27	35	.435	10½
Miami	20	42	.323	17½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	38	23	.623	—
Indiana	38	24	.613	½
New Orleans	36	27	.571	3
Milwaukee	32	31	.508	7
Atlanta	24	39	.381	15
Chicago	22	42	.344	17½
Toronto	20	39	.339	17
Cleveland	11	52	.175	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	48	14	.774	—
San Antonio	42	18	.700	5
Minnesota	40	24	.625	9
Utah	35	27	.565	13
Houston	32	30	.516	16
Memphis	20	41	.328	27½
Denver	13	50	.206	35½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	44	19	.698	—
Portland	40	22	.645	3½
L.A. Lakers	34	26	.567	8½
Phoenix	33	28	.541	10
Golden State	30	32	.484	13½
Seattle	28	33	.459	15
L.A. Clippers	20	42	.323	23½

Saturday's games

Toronto 107, Atlanta 98
Memphis 115, Cleveland 89
Denver 98, Miami 92
Dallas 101, Utah 77
Houston 83, New Jersey 71
L.A. Clippers 103, Chicago 97
Milwaukee 138, Golden State 133, OT
Portland 94, Indiana 80

Men's basketball

AP Top 25 Fared

Saturday

1. Arizona (25-2) beat Oregon 88-80. Next: Pac-10 tournament, Thursday.
2. Kentucky (26-3) beat No. 3 Florida 69-67. Next: vs. South Carolina or Alabama, Friday.
3. Florida (24-6) lost to No. 2 Kentucky

69-67. Next: vs. Vanderbilt or LSU, Friday.

4. Texas (22-5) beat No. 5 Oklahoma 76-71. Next: Big 12 tournament, Friday.

5. Oklahoma (21-6) lost to No. 4 Texas 76-71. Next: Big 12 tournament, Friday.

6. Kansas (23-6) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Sunday.

7. Pittsburgh (22-4) did not play. Next: at Villanova, Sunday.

8. Marquette (23-4) beat Cincinnati 70-61. Next: vs. Ala.-Birmingham-Charlotte winner Conference USA tournament, Thursday.

9. Wake Forest (23-4) beat North Carolina State 78-72. Next: ACC tournament, Friday.

10. Duke (21-5) did not play. Next: at North Carolina, Sunday.

11. Xavier (24-4) beat Temple 96-65. Next: vs. Massachusetts-George Washington winner Atlantic 10 tournament, Thursday.

12. Syracuse (22-4) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday.

13. Maryland (19-7) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Sunday.

14. Illinois (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Sunday.

15. Louisville (21-6) beat Charlotte 100-59. Next: vs. Houston-Tulane winner Conference USA tournament, Thursday.

16. Notre Dame (22-8) beat Georgetown 86-80. Next: Big East tournament, Wednesday.

17. Stanford (23-7) beat No. 22 California 72-60. Next: Pac-10 tournament, Thursday.

18. Memphis (22-5) beat Alabama-Birmingham 90-79. Next: vs. South Florida-DePaul winner Conference USA tournament, Thursday.

19. Creighton (28-4) beat Indiana State 57-56. Next: vs. Wichita State, Sunday. Next: x-MVC championship, Monday.

20. Oklahoma State (21-8) beat Texas A&M 77-52. Next: Big 12 tournament, Thursday or Friday.

21. Dayton (21-5) did not play. Next: vs. Rhode Island-Duquesne winner Atlantic 10 tournament, Thursday.

22. California (20-7) lost to No. 17 Stanford 72-60. Next: Pac-10 tournament, Thursday.

23. Mississippi State (19-8) beat Auburn 67-45. Next: vs. Mississippi or Tennessee, Friday.

24. Wisconsin (22-6) did not play. Next: Big Ten tournament, Friday.

25. Georgia (18-8) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Sunday.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	39	17	6	5	89	178	140
Philadelphia	35	18	11	3	84	158	140
N.Y. Islanders	30	27	9	2	71	181	188
N.Y. Rangers	28	31	9	2	67	186	205
Pittsburgh	25	35	4	5	59	167	211

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Ottawa	42	18	7	1	92	216	147
Toronto	37	26	5	1	80	200	176
Boston	31	26	8	3	73	203	195
Montreal	24	29	8	8	64	171	202
Buffalo	21	32	8	6	56	151	176

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	32	25	8	5	77	193	186
Tampa Bay	30	23	10	5	75	185	182
Florida	21	27	12	9	63	157	201
Carolina	20	34	9	6	55	142	193
Atlanta	22	34	6	4	54	174	234

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	38	17	9	3	88	216	167
St. Louis	35	19	8	6	84	214	178
Nashville	27	25	10	5	69	165	165
Chicago	24	29	10	5	63	160	174
Columbus	24	33	7	3	58	175	214

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	39	18	11	1	90	218	175
Colorado	34	16	11	7	86	201	165
Minnesota	33	24	9	1	76	160	144
Edmonton	29	23	8	8	74	182	187
Calgary	23	31	4	4	60	154	195

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	37	14	15	2	91	207	140
Anaheim	32	25	8	4	76	164	166
Phoenix	27	28	8	4	66	175	184
Los Angeles	29	31	4	4	66	175	184
San Jose	25	31	6	5	61	184	198

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's games

Boston 5, Washington 4, OT
Calgary 3, Columbus 2, OT
Vancouver 3, Toronto 3, tie
New Jersey 4, N.Y. Islanders 2
Ottawa 5, Pittsburgh 1
Buffalo 4, Florida 0
Colorado 2, Philadelphia 1, OT
Phoenix 6, San Jose 4
Los Angeles 2, Montreal 1

From The Associated Press

Bruins 5, Capitals 4 (OT)

BOSTON — Sean O'Donnell scored his first goal of the season halfway through overtime, leading Boston past Washington 5-4 for their third straight victory.

Boston let an early 3-0 lead slip away, but it still moved within two points of Tampa Bay for the sixth spot in the Eastern Conference Saturday.

Glen Murray had two goals — giving him 37 for the season — and two assists for the Bruins. P.J. Axelsson and Mike Knuble also scored for Boston. Robert Lang, Peter Bondra, Steve Konowalchuk and Mike Grier scored for Washington.

Senators 5, Penguins 1

PITTSBURGH — Magnus Arvedson scored twice and Ottawa took over the NHL points lead while running Pittsburgh's losing streak to eight.

Arvedson also set up Daniel Alfredsson's 24th goal as the Senators won their second in a row — giving them 92 points, one more than idle Western Conference leader Dallas. Ottawa has never won the Presidents' Trophy. Ottawa also maintained its three-point lead over New Jersey for the Eastern Conference lead.

Karel Rachunek and Todd White added goals for Ottawa. Mario Lemieux scored for the Penguins.

Sabres 4, Panthers 0

SUNRISE, Fla. — Mika Noronen made 29 saves for his first career shutout and first victory of the season as Buffalo beat Florida 4-0 on Saturday night.

Noronon, 1-7-1 this season, was making only his second start since being recalled from the minors Feb. 22.

Stu Barnes and Jochen Hecht scored 37 seconds apart in the second period to help Lindy Ruff tie Scott Bowman as the winningest coach in Buffalo history with 210 victories. Defenseman Brian Campbell and rookie Ales Kotalik also scored.

NHL

Maple Leafs 3, Canucks 3

TORONTO — Owen Nolan scored twice in his first game for Toronto as the Maple Leafs tied Vancouver.

Nolan, acquired Wednesday from San Jose, gave Toronto a 2-1 lead in first and a 3-1 lead early in the third.

Vancouver's Todd Bertuzzi and Henrik Sedin later scored to tie it at 3. Bertuzzi had two goals and an assist. Shayne Corson also scored for the Maple Leafs.

Devils 4, Islanders 2

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Brian Gionta had his first two-goal game in the NHL as New Jersey beat New York.

Gionta tied it at 2:45 into the second period and put the Devils ahead with his 10th goal about 12 minutes later.

Martin Brodeur made 38 saves, and Joe Nieuwendyk and Jeff Friesen added goals for the Devils. Mattias Weinhandl and Alexei Yashin scored for the Islanders.

Flames 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT)

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jarome Iginla scored his 30th goal with 7.4 seconds remaining in overtime for Calgary.

Columbus defenseman Rostislav Klesla scored his second goal of the season with 1:10 remaining in regulation to tie it at 2.

Chris Drury and Oleg Saprykin also scored for Calgary. Rick Nash and Sean Pronger scored for Columbus.

Avalanche 2, Flyers 1 (OT)

PHILADELPHIA — Peter Forsberg scored his second goal of the game 26 seconds into overtime for Colorado.

Forsberg poked the puck away from Philadelphia's Eric Desjardins at the blue line and beat goalie Roman Cechmanek with a backhand shot. Forsberg's 23rd and 24th goals of the season extended his scoring streak to eight games.

Colorado goalie Patrick Roy, 14-2-2 in his past 18 starts, made 28 saves, allowing only Kim Johnsson's power-play goal.

Coyotes 6, Sharks 4

PHOENIX — Ladislav Nagy scored two goals and Shane Doan had a goal and three assists as Phoenix rallied from a 3-0 deficit.

Branko Radivojevic, Brian Savage and Ossi Vaananen added goals as the Coyotes kept their slim playoff hopes alive with their fourth victory in six games.

Niko Dimitrakos scored two goals and Mike Ricci and Jonathan Cheechoo also scored for San Jose.

Kings 2, Canadiens 1

LOS ANGELES — Ryan Flinn scored his first NHL goal and Eric Belanger also scored as the Los Angeles Kings extended Montreal's winless streak to nine games.

Jamie Storr made 27 saves for Los Angeles, eight points behind eighth-place Edmonton in the Western Conference.

Storr came within three-tenths of a second of his 16th career shutout — and the first ever by the Kings against Montreal in 128 regular-season meetings. Richard Zednik scored his 27th of the season during a goalmouth scramble.

From The Associated Press